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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS 1/

I. GENERAL

1. The British Virgin Islands comprise nearly 30 islands and islets, 16 of which are inhabited. They cover a total of 153 square kilometres and lie 96 kilometres east of Puerto Rico and 225 kilometres north-west of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Territory also lies in close proximity to the United States Virgin Islands. The most important islands in the British Virgin Islands are Tortola (54 square kilometres), the largest in the group, Anegada (38 square kilometres), Virgin Gorda (21 square kilometres) and Jost Van Dyke (9 square kilometres). Peter Island and Cooper Island are mainly holiday resorts. The main airport is situated on Beef Island. Road Town, the capital, is located on Tortola.

2. The climate is subtropical and is moderated by trade winds. The average temperature in winter ranges from 20 to 28 degrees centigrade and in summer from 26 to 31 degrees centigrade. Mean annual rainfall is 1,270 millimetres.

3. The Territory, which is in the hurricane zone, was struck by Hurricane Hugo on 17 September 1989, causing severe damage to the Territory's infrastructure, private homes and its tourist, agriculture and fishing industries (see A/AC.109/1021). As a result of emergency and rehabilitation assistance from donor Governments, mainly the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and from regional and international agencies, as well as local recovery efforts, the Territory recorded economic growth during the period under review (see paras. 43-46).

4. On 18 November 1990, an earthquake which registered 5.3 on the Richter scale was recorded in the Territory. Although there was no loss of life, the earthquake caused substantial property damage. The Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies noted that, while approximately 20 earthquakes had been felt in the Caribbean area during the course of the year, this was the strongest earthquake yet to be experienced in the Territory. The last earthquake of consequence had been recorded in 1867. 2/

5. In March 1990 a group of international experts visited the Territory to seek support for a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) initiative to develop a regional and collective response to disasters, with a view to replacing the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Prevention Project, which was to end at the end of 1990. The Territory was reported to have agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Emergency Preparedness at the thirteenth CARICOM Heads of Government Conference. The Deputy Governor and Chairman of the National Emergency Executive Council stressed that Hurricane Hugo had demonstrated the urgent need for a collective response.

6. At the last census, conducted in 1980, the population was 12,034, an increase of approximately 20 per cent over the 1970 census figure and nearly double the population of 1960. In mid-1989, the population was estimated at

14,000. Preparations for the eighteenth national census, scheduled for 12 May 1991, were being made throughout the period under review. The census will form part of a Caribbean-wide effort, conducted by 16 Commonwealth Caribbean countries. A spokesman for the Territory's Development Planning Unit stated that the census would provide the necessary information on the population to assist government planners in formulating policies, in the field of the economy, health and education. He said also that the accuracy of the census was vital, as regional and international organizations used census figures to determine the amount of aid to be granted to the Territory as well as the assessment of membership contributions. 3/

7. Owing to the Territory's special relationship with the United States Virgin Islands, its residents are exempt from visa requirements of the United States of America when visiting the United States Virgin Islands. As a result of this arrangement, however, the Territory continues to experience substantial difficulties with illegal immigrants. Between January and August 1990, a total of 104 illegal immigrants from several Caribbean countries (Dutch-, English-, French- and Spanish-speaking) and Asia were apprehended and deported to their countries of origin. According to a senior immigration official, the aliens attempted to use the Territory as a bridge to the United States Virgin Islands, and ultimately to the United States. 4/

8. A total of 50 persons became naturalized citizens of British Dependent Territories (British Virgin Islands) in 1990, compared to 94 in 1989 and 107 in 1988. In a related development, in November 1990, at a presentation of 72 certificates of residence, it was announced that persons holding British Virgin Islands certificates of residence were no longer required to be in possession of work permits. 5/

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitution

9. The Territory is administered under the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 1976, which came into force in 1977 and was amended in 1979 and 1982. The Government consists of a Governor appointed by the Queen, and an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

10. The Governor is responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service and the administration of courts. He acts in consultation with the Chief Minister on these matters. He has reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters, however, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Constitution makes provision for the post of Deputy Governor.

11. The Executive Council consists of the Governor as Chairman, the Chief Minister, three other ministers and one ex officio member (the Attorney-General).

12. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, one ex officio member (the Attorney-General) and his nine elected members returned from single-member constituencies every four years. The Governor appoints as Chief Minister the elected member of the Legislative Council most likely to command a majority in that body. The other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister and are assigned responsibility for any government business, except in those areas for which the Governor retains responsibility. The Constitution provides for a Deputy Chief Minister and a Leader of the Opposition.

The Judiciary

13. The law of the British Virgin Islands is the common law of the United Kingdom, together with locally enacted legislation. It is administered by the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate Court, the Juvenile Court and, by special arrangements, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, which comprises a High Court of Justice and a Court of Appeal. There is a resident puisne judge whose jurisdiction includes Anguilla.

14. A judiciary review was carried out in the Territory in March 1990 by Sir Peter Allen, a former Chief Justice of Uganda, as part of an exercise covering all of the British Dependent Territories. The terms of reference of Sir Peter, who was commissioned by the Government of the United Kingdom, were to examine the efficient and economical use of resources, to determine whether changes were needed in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and to make recommendations having regard to the interests of the community in bringing offenders to justice and providing early resolution of civil disputes. 6/

B. Political parties and elections

Electoral reform

15. The territorial Government announced in September 1990 that the Legislative Council had amended the Elections Act of 1977 to make provisions for continuous voter registration; voting by proxy; and new elections when two candidates had the same number of votes. The amendments also provided for the appointment of a Supervisor of Elections, the establishment of a permanent Elections Office and an increase in the deposits required from candidates.

16. The Deputy Governor, who has responsibility for elections, stated that the main impetus behind the amendments was the perceived need to reduce the number of eligible voters unable to vote. During the most recent elections, the inability to register approximately 600 persons, mainly young people who had attained voting age, had been a major source of criticism.

17. The introduction of proxy voting was objected to by some opposition members who drew attention to the system's potential for fraud. The proxy system had been established to accommodate residents of the Territory living

or working in the United States Virgin Islands who previously would have been compelled to travel to the Territory to vote.

18. General elections for the nine elected seats in the Legislative Council were held in the Territory on 12 November 1990. A total of 38 candidates participated in the elections, including a number of independent candidates and members of four political parties, namely, the ruling Virgin Islands Party (VIP), led by Mr. Lavity Stoutt, the Chief Minister; the United Party (UP), led by Mr. Conrad Maduro, Leader of the Opposition; and two new parties: the Independent People's Movement (IPM), led by Mr. Omar Hodge, a former Chief Minister; and the People's Progressive Democratic Party (PPDP), led by Mr. Willard Wheatley, a former Chief Minister.

19. In the final results, the ruling VIP won six seats, five by incumbents and the sixth by Mr. Prince Stoutt, a brother of the Chief Minister. The remaining three seats were won by incumbents, i.e., Mr. Omar Hodge, leader of IPM, and two independent candidates, Mr. Cyril Romney, a former Chief Minister, and Mr. Walwyn Brewley. Election officials reported that 5,258 voters, out of 7,447 registered voters, or over 70 per cent, had cast their ballot. A total of 495 applications to appoint proxy voters had been approved and 37 rejected. Press reports indicate that while the elections were conducted largely without incident, allegations of irregularities in the securing and casting of proxy votes, as well as in protecting the anonymity of voters, were made by defeated candidates. The Supervisor of Elections pointed out that provisions had been made under the amended Elections Act to address alleged improprieties through the Territory's High Court.

20. After the elections, the Governor reappointed Mr. Lavity Stoutt, the leader of the majority party, as Chief Minister. On the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor made the following ministerial appointments: Mr. Ralph T. O'Neal, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour; Mr. Terence Lettsome, Minister for Communications and Works; and Mr. Louis Waters, Minister for Health, Education and Welfare. At the first session of the Twelfth Legislative Council, on 7 December 1990, Mr. Keith Flax was re-elected Speaker of the Legislative Council for the third consecutive term. Mr. Oliver Cills, an elected VIP member and former Minister for Communications and Works, was elected Deputy Speaker. 7/

C. Future status of the Territory

1. Position of the territorial Government

21. In his statement at the Regional Seminar in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 19 to 21 June 1990, Mr. Ralph T. O'Neal, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, recalled, inter alia, that a United Nations visiting mission had been dispatched to the British Virgin Islands in 1977. He stressed that the majority of the population did not want independence. Further, the

Legislative Council had adopted a motion stating that no fundamental changes could be made to the Constitution unless approved by a two-thirds majority in a referendum. He invited the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to find a way to deal with the small Territories which did not wish to opt for independence, adding that the wishes of the majority of the people must be respected. He also recalled that the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, had reiterated that if independence was the wish of the people no obstacle would be put in its way. Although the Executive Council of the British Virgin Islands had adopted a resolution in 1989 stating that it would not encourage a United Nations visiting mission, he said that the territorial Government appreciated the role played by the Special Committee in urging the administering Powers to create conditions that would ensure economic and social development in their respective Territories (A/AC.109/1043, paras. 40-42).

22. During a visit to London in March 1991, the Chief Minister was interviewed on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) programme "Caribbean Report", where he said that he would like the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to expedite the arrangements for the proposed associate membership of the British Virgin Islands in CARICOM. In response to a question, the Chief Minister added that such a membership should not be regarded as a step towards independence since "the British Virgin Islands does not have independence on its agenda" (see also paras. 28 and 29). 8/

23. The question of the future political status of the Territory was not an issue in the last general elections held in the Territory. The policy of the ruling VIP is to maintain the present relationship with the United Kingdom, or a status quo, while seeking greater autonomy in regional affairs.

2. Position of the administering Power

24. In his statement to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 24 October 1990, the representative of the United Kingdom stressed that, regardless of the size of a territory and the numbers of people involved, United Kingdom policy was always guided by the wishes of the inhabitants. The aim of his Government was to ensure that in exercising their rights the people of its 10 remaining dependent Territories should decide for themselves what kind of political future they wanted. It was up to them to determine whether they wanted independence or wished instead to opt for some other status. In that connection, he remarked that it was wrong to equate self-determination solely with independence, since other options were also available. His Government was faithfully fulfilling its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations to develop self-government in its dependent Territories and was assisting its Caribbean dependent Territories to diversify their economies. 9/

3. Action taken by the General Assembly

25. On 20 November 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/25 on the question of the British Virgin Islands, in which it reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of the British Virgin Islands themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and in that connection reaffirmed the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of the Territory of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination. The Assembly also reiterated its appeal to the administering Power to continue to facilitate the participation of the Territory in various international and regional organizations and in organizations of the United Nations system.

D. External relations

26. The British Virgin Islands is an associate member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and its subsidiary bodies, including the Caribbean Development and Coordination Committee (CDCC). The Territory is also represented at meetings of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED) sponsored by the World Bank. In outlining the increasing role of the Territory in the international community, the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour informed the participants in the Caribbean seminar on decolonization, held in June 1990, that the territorial Government was in the process of applying for membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and that a representative of the Territory had recently attended a meeting on the environment held at Cartagena, Colombia, as part of the delegation of the United Kingdom.

27. The Territory is an associate member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and participates in its activities. It is represented at OECS's meetings of heads of authority, which are held twice a year. The British Virgin Islands is a member of some of the associate institutions of CARICOM, including the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the University of the West Indies (UWI). Recent developments regarding the Territory's application for associate membership in CARICOM are outlined below.

28. In June 1990, Mr. Roderick Rainford, the Secretary-General of CARICOM, and a senior official of the organization held talks in the Territory with the Chief Minister and other representatives of the Government to continue discussions on the possibilities for the admission of the British Virgin Islands into CARICOM. The Territory's application was considered at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Kingston from 31 July to 2 August 1990. It was reported that the heads of Government expressed their willingness to grant associate

membership to the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, subject to the necessary authorization by the Government of the United Kingdom to the territorial Governments. The heads of Government authorized the Secretary-General of CARICOM to consult with the Government of the United Kingdom on the matter. 10/

29. In his Speech from the Throne in December 1990, the Governor informed the Legislative Council that discussions which had begun in 1990 between representatives of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office the territorial Government and CARICOM officials, and which concerned the admission of the Territory as an associate member of the 13-member Community, were expected to be finalized in 1991. Upon admission, the Territory would be able to participate in the full range of CARICOM's activities and attend its heads of Government conferences as an observer. 11/

30. The Territory continued to participate directly with other Caribbean Governments in regional and international conferences and programmes organized by Governments, international organizations and multilateral agencies. In that connection, the Police Commissioner attended an International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) conference in the Turks and Caicos Islands in March 1990. In June 1990, the President of the British Virgin Islands Community College participated in a seminar held in Dominica, on post-secondary vocational and technical education and sponsored by the Caribbean Development Bank. In the same month, representatives of the Territory, together with members of the Caribbean Hotel Association, visited Mexico. In July 1990, three government officials attended a workshop at the headquarters of the OECS National Resources Management Unit in Saint Lucia. The Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Chief Minister led the Territory's delegation to the Miami Conference on the Caribbean, which was attended by leaders from the Caribbean, Europe, North, Central and South America, and by business representatives from the United States.

31. There were exchanges of visits between high-level representatives of the administering Power, the territorial Government and regional and international organisations throughout the period under review. The Assistant Head of the West Indian and Atlantic Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited the Territory in March and November 1990, respectively. A consular officer of the United States Embassy in Antigua visited the Territory in June. The Governor of the Territory attended the annual meeting of Governors of United Kingdom Dependent Territories and Heads of Mission in the Caribbean, which was held at Kingston in March 1990. From 29 November to 4 December 1990, the Governor visited Puerto Rico, where he conferred with officials of the United States, including those responsible for the Coast Guard, Customs Service and Drug Enforcement Agency. 12/ Mr. Elton Georges, the Deputy Governor, attended a conference on ethics in government, held at Toronto, Canada in June 1990.

32. On behalf of the heads of the British Dependent Territories, the Chief Minister addressed the Canada-Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held in Barbados in March 1990. In April, the Chief Minister attended the World

Ministerial Drug Summit held in London. While in London, he held discussions with officials and members of the Government of the United Kingdom, including the Minister for Overseas Development, as well as with representatives of the Commonwealth secretariat and the Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. In July the Chief Minister led a delegation to Hong Kong, where he held talks with government officials and businessmen regarding the promotion of the British Virgin Islands as a financial centre. 13/

33. In July 1990, a three-member delegation composed of Mr. Keith Flax, Speaker of the Legislative Council, Mr. Conrad Maduro, then Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Walwyn Brewley, the elected member for Road Town, visited London as guests of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). Their activities included touring the United Kingdom, attending meetings of the Houses of Parliament and holding discussions with officials of CPA and members of Parliament. 14/

34. The eighteenth annual United States Virgin Islands/British Virgin Islands Friendship Day was celebrated on St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, on 27 October 1990. The Governor, the Chief Minister, ministers of the Government, other government officials and representatives of business and civic organizations attended the event. This annual observance, begun in 1972, had been interrupted only in 1989, when Hurricane Hugo severely damaged both Territories.

35. The Friendship Day celebration was highlighted by the signing of a memorandum on the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference by the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands and the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands. The memorandum provides for the revitalization of the Conference through the holding of quarterly meetings between the delegates of the two Territories. The Chief Minister emphasized that their Governments faced many issues such as drug interdiction and tertiary education which could be addressed more effectively on a united front. Working groups which were established to examine areas of possible cooperation were expected to submit their report within 90 days, in time for the next session of the Conference, scheduled to take place in the British Virgin Islands.

36. The first Inter-Virgin Islands Conference was established by a joint memorandum on 9 May 1951. Between 1951 and 1965, over 20 meetings were held under the Conference on a wide range of subjects, including agriculture, communications, trade, transportation, and tourism. 15/ At the 1987 Friendship Day, the Task Force on Inter-Virgin Islands Relations, established at the 1986 celebration, presented a report which, inter alia, recommended the establishment of a successor organization as a focal point for intergovernmental cooperation (see A/AC.109/940, para. 25).

E. Public service

37. In 1985, the latest year for which figures are available, the government sector employed 1,107 civil servants, 866 of whom occupied established posts. The public service sector, the second largest employer, accounted for 21.9 per cent of the labour force. Following an examination of staffing needs and a salary revision in 1987 and 1988, the territorial Government decided to control the growth of the public service to the extent possible. In order to improve its efficiency, the Government would continue to improve in-service and overseas training arrangements.

38. It was reported in April 1990 that 23 police constables would be added to the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force by June 1990. The Commissioner of Police stated that between 1983 and 1988 the population had risen by 7 per cent, while the crime rate had risen by 73 per cent. 16/ In December 1990, the territorial Government reported that 26 full-time fire-fighters and 15 auxiliary officers had been assigned to the Territory's five fire stations. Vacancies for an additional 6 full-time fire-fighters and 30 auxiliaries were also reported.

39. In October 1990, the government administration complex on Anegada was inaugurated. The building was constructed with financial assistance from the United Kingdom Government through the Barbados-based British Development Division (BDD). It provides accommodation for a police station, an immigration office and a postal agency. At the inauguration the Chief Minister stated that the territorial Government would continue to demonstrate its commitment to assist the people of the northernmost island in their pursuit of increased economic activities on their island. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the new building represented a step towards decentralization, which would make it convenient for the people of Anegada to transact business of an important nature. 17/

40. In a related development, the Legislative Council in December 1990 empowered the territorial Government to borrow $11.5 million from four commercial banks operating in the Territory and from the British Virgin Islands Social Security System to finance the construction of an administrative and legislative complex on Wickhams Cay. The Chief Minister stressed the growing need for office space and noted the high rental prices. In March 1990, a contract was awarded to an engineering firm for the design of the new complex, which was expected to be completed in 1991. 18/

F. Other developments

41. In October 1990, Lieutenant Commander Michael Critchley of the Royal Navy and Mr. Ronald Thompson, a former Police Commissioner of the British Virgin Islands, arrived in the Territory to conduct a marine capability study of the British Virgin Islands enforcement agencies. Sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the study was aimed at exploring the possibilities for improving the marine capabilities of enforcement agencies in the Caribbean

Dependent Territories. Recent efforts to improve those capabilities have included joint operations in Anguilla, Montserrat and the Territory.

42. The United Kingdom Government has purchased new launches for the police departments of its dependent Territories and provided training by royal naval personnel. The training which began in 1989 is still going on.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

43. The economy of the British Virgin Islands is based primarily on tourism and related activities, construction, real estate, banking and government services. During the period under review, the international business and finance sector continued to grow. Agriculture, fishing and manufacturing remained marginal. Despite its limited resource endowment and its dependence on external capital and labour, the territory's economy continued to expand steadily. The Territory now has one of the highest per capita income levels in the Caribbean, i.e., $US 9,380.00, according to recent estimates.

44. In his 1990 budget address to the Legislative Council, on 20 February 1990, the Chief Minister and Minister of Finance stated that despite the severe impact of Hurricane Hugo, particularly on tourism, the Territory's economy still showed sustained growth. He noted that all sectors of the economy had registered real growth, with financial services, construction and telecommunications leading the way. Positive growth had been recorded in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, reversing the recent trend. He emphasized that the Government's efforts at diversifying the economy to reduce its dependence on tourism were showing success.

45. In its report on the Territory for 1989, the Caribbean Development Bank stated that economic growth was estimated at 7.5 per cent in 1989, compared to 8 per cent in 1988. It noted that the main contributors to continued growth were the increase in public investment, as well as private sector activities in telecommunications and residential and commercial construction. Other economic factors were the higher levels of tourist arrivals and a record increase in the incorporation of international business companies. The strong economic performance had contributed to substantial increases in government revenue, resulting in the largest current account surplus for the decade and the highest level of fiscal reserves since 1982. The sustained economic prosperity had been accompanied by continued labour shortage and a slight increase in inflation. According to the territorial Government, the annual rate of inflation as measured by the consumer price index showed an increase of 5.4 per cent for the period from October 1989 to October 1990. During the corresponding period in 1989, the increase was 3.7 per cent. 19/

46. In the same report, CDB indicated that this favourable economic trend would probably continue in the medium term as public sector capital investment in social and economic infrastructure accelerated and as a relatively high

level of private investment in tourism, financial services and construction continued.

B. Public finance

47. On 6 March 1990, the Legislative Council approved the budget estimates for 1990: recurrent revenue was estimated at $US 40.7 million and recurrent expenditure at $US 37.9 million. 20/ The budgetary surplus was estimated at 2.8 million, the largest in over a decade, as indicated above. Of that amount, 2.6 million would be allocated to a capital fund and the remainder to the Territory's strategic reserves.

48. The following allocations of recurrent expenditure were approved: $13.4 million to the Ministry of Health, Education and Welfare; $7.3 million to the Ministry of Communications and Works; $6.5 million to the departments under the Chief Minister and Minister for Finance; $2.3 million to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour. In addition, $5.5 million was allocated to departments not subject to ministerial control and $2.90 million to the Consolidated Fund for public debt, pensions and miscellaneous expenditure.

49. The capital budget as approved provided for a record total of $18.7 million. Approximately $10 million, or 52 per cent, the largest allocation, was approved for the Ministry of Communications and Works; $3.5 million or 19 per cent, for departments under the Chief Minister; and $2.1 million, or 11 per cent, for the Ministry of Health, Education and Welfare. In his budget address, the Chief Minister indicated that new projects for which aid funds had been approved amounted to $1.4 million while those to be financed on loan funds were estimated at $8.5 million. Projects for which external funding was envisaged amounted to nearly $3.6 million, and those to be financed from local resources would require an investment of $5.1 million.

50. In the same address, the Chief Minister outlined the external assistance, which the Territory's capital development programme continued to receive, mainly from the British Development Division. Other donors included CDB, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Community (EC). He also noted that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank had provided technical assistance for the installation of a computerized debt management system.

C. Land, development and construction

51. As previously reported (A/AC.109/1021, para. 39), there are 15,280 hectares of land in the Territory. As at January 1988, 7,084 hectares were owned by nationals and 2,214 by expatriates, with 5,819 hectares classified as Crown land. During the period under review, the territorial Government addressed the growing concerns of local groups and individuals over the sale

of land mainly to foreigners, access by local people to the Territory's beaches and other environmental issues, and announced the introduction of new rules. In this connection, the territorial Government announced in July 1990 that the sale of property or business belonging to non-British Virgin Islanders must be advertised in four consecutive issues of a local newspaper and that the price must be quoted. The Government established a technical review committee to study carefully land reclamation requests. Noting that flat land is at a premium on Tortola, the main island, the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Natural Resources declared that the review committee must consider whether the area contained mangroves or delicate marine life and/or coral and reef life that would be endangered by land reclamation. In September 1990, the Government also launched a conservation education programme designed to increase public understanding of coastal management and instil a sense of urgency regarding environmental issues. 21/

52. The Caribbean Development Bank reported that in 1989 the construction industry had been very active for the fifth consecutive year, with an estimated 280 construction projects, as compared with 250 during 1988.

53. According to information provided in March 1990 by the Minister for Communications and Works, local investment in the construction industry was estimated at $46 million in 1989, compared with $35 million in 1988. The Minister noted that the investment was mostly in commercial buildings, villas and other residential facilities. In June 1990, the British Virgin Islands Hotel and Commerce Association and the territorial Government sponsored a seminar on the construction industry. The objective of the seminar was to design a framework within which the industry would continue to grow and provide greater benefit to local companies. In October 1990, the territorial Government and CDB sponsored a seminar/workshop aimed at setting standards for hurricane-resistant buildings.

54. It was announced in January 1991 that the territorial Government had signed a $4 million contract with a local construction company for the reconstruction of major portions of a sea-defence wall that had been damaged by Hurricane Hugo. The project is to be funded jointly by CDB and the territorial Government. 22/

D. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

55. According to the Caribbean Development Bank, it was the agricultural sector that had suffered the most devastating effects of the 1989 hurricane. Over 90 per cent of the farmers had experienced heavy losses to crops, livestock and buildings. The government agricultural station at Paraquita Bay had also suffered major damage to infrastructure, crops, nurseries and livestock. In the fishing industry, some 3,000 fish traps at sea, or approximately 60 per cent, had been lost or destroyed.

56. Reporting on the agricultural sector in his budget speech of February 1990, however, the Chief Minister indicated that measures taken by the

Government had succeeded in reversing the downward trend of recent years and that encouraging signs of resumed growth had been registered. Among those measures were programmes by the Department of Agriculture to provide individualized technical and material assistance to over 200 small farmers on Tortola to increase their production and profits.

57. In a statement during the British Virgin Islands Farmers' Week, celebrated in November 1990, the Chief Agricultural Officer reiterated the Territory's need to develop national food security by increasing local production. He outlined the Government's plans for local farmers to plant over 40 hectares of fruit trees and to establish small-scale fruit processing. He acknowledged that chronic water shortages presented a problem to the industry.

58. Press reports in April 1990 indicated that locally produced meat satisfied 90 per cent of local demand. This was the result of a campaign conducted by the Territory's Department of Agriculture to assist local butchers in obtaining meat and to help them upgrade their marketing skills. The number of animals processed at the government abattoir has increased significantly since 1988. There has also been an increase in the purchase of cattle from Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke. 23/

59. In November 1990, two workshops on production and marketing techniques were held for livestock and poultry farmers in the Territory. A Professor of livestock sciences at the University of the Virgin Islands conducted the workshops and taught poultry farmers how to improve their breeding techniques.

60. In June 1990, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour announced that it would impose a closed season on conch harvesting, following a significant decline in conch stocks owing to increased consumption. The proposal was part of a ministerial initiative to encourage fishermen to develop long-line and other deep-sea fishing methods to compensate for the decline in the stocks of traditional fish species in the waters around the Territory. 24/ It was reported that the Territory had imported approximately 34,020 kilograms of fish, a high proportion of which were deep-water fish. In November 1990, at a meeting of the Miami-based Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), which monitors the development of the fishing industry in the Caribbean, Central America and the United States, it was disclosed that the decline of certain species of fish in the British Virgin Islands was not a purely local phenomenon but one that affected other countries in the Caribbean as well. It was also reported that the territorial Government had banned spear fishing and, with the assistance of the OECS Fisheries Unit, had embarked on the first phase of a project to demarcate Horseshoe Reef off the Coast of Anegada. 25/

61. In a related development, a team of fisheries inspectors was formed in May 1990 to patrol the territorial waters, particularly the protected areas, for illegal fishing activities.

62. The annual report of the Development Bank of the Virgin Islands for 1989, released in July 1990, noted that the number of requests for loan funds for agricultural production reflected the low level of activities in that sector. There were only six applications for a sum total of $54,000 ($28,000 in 1988). According to the Bank, loan demand had already declined before the hurricane. There were 23 applications for small-scale fishing loans amounting to $239,000, mainly for the replacement of engines or fish traps; a total of 21 requests were approved for a total of $219,000. At year end, a total of $197,236 was disbursed, covering 19 of the approved applications. The Bank noted a steady return to traditional trap fishing as a result of unsuccessful attempts at long-line fishing. It reported that landings at the fish terminal were approximately 60,000 kilograms in 1989, a decrease from the 1988 figure. By year end there were indications that the importation of fish was increasing. 26/

E. Industrial development and mining

63. CDB reported that the measures taken by the territorial Government in 1988 to increase manufacturing activity did not bring immediate results and that the sector remained marginal, although some growth had been recorded in the sectors of boat/yacht repair, food processing and handicraft production for the local market. The Territory continued to review possibilities of joint manufacturing ventures with Puerto Rico and of opportunities under the Eastern Caribbean Investment Promotion Service.

F. Communications and other basic facilities

64. In several statements made during 1990, the Chief Minister and Minister of Finance emphasized the importance of developing and improving the Territory's social and economic infrastructure. With the establishment in late 1988 of the Project Planning Review and Advisory Committee, investment programming in the Territory improved significantly in 1989. Donor assistance grew substantially, with the Caribbean Development Bank as the principal donor.

65. Investment in the public sector was reported to have reached $27 million in 1989, up from $10 million in 1988. Although a number of planned projects were not executed, mainly because of unplanned hurricane rehabilitation, the level of expenditure was consistent with the original target of $26.5 million. The territorial Government's expenditure was concentrated on road works, health and community services and schools.

66. In his budget speech of February 1990, the Chief Minister announced that the British Development Division had approved aid funds to be spent on such projects as training schemes for the Police Marine Shore Base; rehabilitation and equipment for Meyers and Cappons Bay schools; and work on the Anegada airport, the central fire station and the Anegada administration building. Other externally funded projects under the capital development programme included a multi-purpose community centre and health clinic funded by CDB and

USAID; a consultancy study on a new airport terminal at Beef Island to be carried out by the European Community; and work on water supply at Sea Cow Bay and Virgin Gorda, funded by the European Development Fund.

67. Major developments regarding the Territory's infrastructure during the period under review included the operation, starting in November 1990, of a desalination plant in the capital, with an expected capacity of 1.4 million litres per day. Another plant suspended operations earlier when the groundwater level fell below the required capacity. 27/ A memorandum of understanding re-establishing the Territory's participation in the Canadian Airports Project was expected to be signed between the territorial Government and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the early part of 1991. The Territory had received over $2 million in training, fire-fighting and meteorological equipment between 1984 and 1989 under a similar programme. 28/ Cable and Wireless, which operates the Territory's telecommunications system, has completed a microwave system linking the island of Jost Van Dyke with the rest of the Territory and the world. The system cost approximately $500,000.

G. International business and finance

68. The British Virgin Islands is one of the fastest-growing offshore centres in the Caribbean. An estimated 8,000 companies were incorporated in the Territory in 1988, over 11,000 new international business companies were incorporated in 1989 and 4,000 in the first quarter of 1990, bringing the total number of companies to 26,000. To improve efficiency within the Government Registry and to speed up operations, a Registrar of Companies has been appointed, computer facilities installed and clerical staff trained. A broad-based committee, whose terms of reference include the revision of the statutes governing the operations of trust companies, has been established and new legislation emanating from the review was enacted in September 1990.

69. According to press reports, the United Kingdom Parliament has accepted a report by an audit company commissioned by the United Kingdom Government, on the offshore finance sectors in its dependent Territories in the Caribbean. Dated 16 October 1989, the report stated that the financial sector of the British Virgin Islands, which employed over 200 workers with the highest average wage, was one of the main contributors to the Territory's strong economic performance. Government revenue from this source was estimated at $2.5 million in 1988 and was expected to continue to increase. The report noted, however, that supervision of the sector was weak, owing mainly to the lack of resources, and that there was a failure to make the best use of information collected. It pointed out that in circumstances of a complex commercial fraud it would be necessary to provide the Territory with additional support for local prosecution. The report cautioned that with the growth in offshore services there would be a growing incidence of commercial crime and that the local police force did not have any specialist in commercial crime or fraud investigation. It stressed the need for providing new administrative arrangements for the regulation and supervision of the

sector and for the adoption of new legislation in order to give legal strength to those procedures. 29/

70. In that connection, it was reported in September 1990 that the Legislative Council had passed the following three bills, which would empower the Government to exercise stricter control over the industry: (a) The Company Management Act 1990; (b) The Bank and Trust Companies Act 1990; and (c) The International Business Companies Amendment Act 1990.

71. The Company Management Act 1990 was designed primarily to govern the affairs of those smaller institutions providing narrow corporate management services. It would affect registered offices and agents for international business companies as well as directors, officers, etc. Under the terms of the Act, persons undertaking the business of company management will be required to obtain licences. The bill also provides for the appointment of an inspector of company managers.

72. The Bank and Trust Companies Act 1990 makes provision for the appointment of an Inspector of Banks and Trust Companies, who would maintain a general overview of the banking and trust companies sector and examine the affairs of all licensees to ascertain their compliance with the terms of the Act.

73. Under the terms of the International Business Company Amendment Act 1990, amendments covering the following four categories were adopted, after extensive consultations between the Government and the private sector: (a) regulatory measures; (b) technical and legal measures; (c) administrative measures; and (d) general measures.

74. Speaking in support of the bills, the Chief Minister said that demonstrating the Government's intention to adopt legislation that guaranteed the legitimacy of individuals and companies using local services would enhance the Territory's international image. 30/

75. In October 1990, it was reported that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had appointed Mr. Rodney Gallagher as regional financial services adviser for the United Kingdom dependencies in the region; he was to be based in the British High Commission in Barbados. His mission would be to assist Caribbean dependent Territories and associated regional institutions in the promotion, regulation and supervision of the region's offshore financial services and its long-term viable development. 31/

76. A three-member delegation from the Territory composed of the Minister for Health, Education and Welfare, the Financial Secretary and the Deputy Commissioner of Police attended a regional conference on money laundering held in Aruba from 8 to 10 June 1990. The conference had been convened as a follow-up to the recommendations formulated by, and contained in the report of, a financial task force organized by the Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States). The report recommended, inter alia, the elimination of anonymous bank accounts, the imposition of strict control on currency movements and the requirement that

banking transactions over a certain amount be reported to Governments. The Conference was attended by representatives of 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as observers from France, the United Kingdom and the United States. 32/ In November 1990, the Deputy Commissioner of Police attended a three-day workshop on economic crimes and the seizure of profits from drug traffickers. The workshop was sponsored jointly by the United Kingdom Government and the Commonwealth secretariat. 2/

77. The Guyerzeller Bank (BVI), a new bank and a subsidiary of the Guyerzeller Bank AG of Zürich, Switzerland, received a general banking licence on 3 November 1989 to conduct commercial operations in the Territory; this brings to six the total number of commercial banks in the British Virgin Islands. For details on the structure of financial institutions in the Territory, see the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1021, paras. 55-59).

78. CDB reported that commercial banks continued to participate in the domestic economy. As of September 1989, bank credits totalled $135.2 million, an increase of 25 per cent over September 1988. During the same period, total deposits increased by 17.8 per cent to $280 million. A significant proportion of the increased lending was for personal loans, which amounted to $32.5 million, more than double the amount of the previous year. Construction loans, largely to finance residential construction, increased by 41.5 per cent to $27.4 million, while overall loans for tourist activities declined by 21.1 per cent to $15.3 million.

H. Tourism and related activities

79. The tourist industry remained one of the main economic activities. Visitor arrivals for 1989 reached 305,915, an increase of 25.8 per cent over the previous year's figure. The strong growth represented substantially improved performance over the previous two years and took place despite hurricane damage to approximately 40 per cent of the hotels, 23 per cent of the boats, and the closure of a number of marinas earlier in the year. Concerted marketing and promotion in the United Kingdom and the United States led to a substantial growth in the number of cruise ship calls to the Territory, i.e., from 24 in 1988 to 50 in 1989. According to the Caribbean Development Bank, that factor, together with the slow recovery of the tourist market in the United States Virgin Islands, where tourist facilities had been more severely damaged, resulted in the near doubling of cruise ship visitors, from 38,347 in 1988 to 70,757 in 1989.

80. Hotel capacity rose to 987 rooms, while the number of boats remained stable at 300. Hotel occupancy fell from 60 per cent in 1988 to 57.8 per cent in 1989. The average length of stay remained stable at 7.4 days, while visitor expenditure, estimated at $129 million, increased by 7.5 per cent over 1988.

81. Representatives of the territorial Government and the local tourist industry attended marketing and promotion tours in Europe and the United States during 1990 and 1991 and participated in conferences on tourism which included the Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference held at Cancún, Mexico, in June 1990. The charter boat industry attracted more than 100,000 visitors in 1988 and contributed an estimated $57.5 million to the Territory's economy. Increased competition resulted in a growth rate in 1989 of only 4 per cent. 33/

I. Assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system

82. The country programme for the territory of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the period 1987-1991 remained the frame of reference for external technical cooperation inputs, particularly from the specialized agencies and other United Nations organs represented in the Caribbean. Owing to the Territory's high per capita income, UNDP has noted that the British Virgin Islands might graduate to "net-contributor status" in the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996); if so, all costs for projects would be borne fully by the Government. UNDP-funded assistance has remained active in the area of physical development planning. The territorial Government has expressed interest in continuing its collaboration with UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to start phase II of the physical planning project. A project on the development of a "Geographical Information System" (GIS) to be funded by the Government was in progress. In November 1990, Mr. Jan Wahlberg, the UNDP Resident Representative visited the Territory and stressed the strong and constructive relationship between UNDP and the Territory. 34/

83. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to provide assistance to the Territory in the areas of maternal and child health (expanded programme of immunization) and early childhood development. Assistance amounted to $29,000 in 1989 and a similar amount in 1990. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) project "Family life education and parent education" ended in 1990 and the territorial Government was expected to submit new project proposals. Technical assistance in the conduct of the Territory's 1991 population census is provided through CARICOM.

84. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), together with other donors, assisted the Territory in the computerization of customs services.

85. The Caribbean Office of ILO reported that its assistance to the Territory was mainly through multi-island projects in the field of technical and vocational training and the harmonization of labour legislation in OECS countries. In 1991, the Territory was to participate in a project on "Workers' education and the environment".

86. In 1989, UNESCO sponsored six projects, which included the provision of a fellowship in mass communications and the services of a regional communications adviser to the Territory. In 1990, under its regional programmes, UNESCO provided a shipment of reading books to the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Territory also participated in a major project in the field of education for Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1991 UNESCO will fund a project for the restoration of an old copper mine in Virgin Gorda.

87. The World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) provided technical assistance during the period 1989/90, particularly in the implementation of primary health care delivery services. PAHO strengthened its fellowships programme in recognition of the shortage of trained personnel and provided ongoing planning assistance for the post-hurricane reconstruction and rehabilitation of the health services.

J. External debt and trade

88. The external debt of the Territory rose from $14.2 million at the end of 1988 to $22 million, or 15 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), at the end of 1989. During the year 1989, the territorial Government contracted new loans from the Caribbean Development Bank to finance a port development, a mortgage finance scheme and hurricane rehabilitation. A global line of credit was granted by the European Investment Bank (EIB). In his 1990 budget address, the Chief Minister said that it was necessary to borrow in order to finance some of the critical projects and that the Territory's creditworthiness was very high. The fact that such donors as CDB and EIB were willing to provide concessionary finance to the Territory was, in his opinion, indicative of their confidence in the strength and resilience of the Territory's economy and in its ability to service its debt obligations.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

89. According to CDB, the shortage of skilled manpower remained a critical problem in the Territory despite the territorial Government's relative success in attracting a high percentage of nationals who studied outside the region. According to the same source, the public service had been losing competent administrative and clerical staff to the international business companies and tourist establishments. The quality of the staff in the private sector remained a matter of major concern. The Tourist Board and the hotels have been conducting training courses within the schools to address the problem. In addition, the recently established British Virgin Islands Community College has offered training in a number of fields related to tourism and financial services. The territorial Government continued to provide student loans and scholarships, as well as training in several technical, managerial and professional fields for a number of nationals.

B. Public health

90. The Territory continued to be served by the 55-bed Peebles Hospital on Tortola and a number of health clinics throughout the Territory. In his budget speech, the Chief Minister outlined plans for the construction and extension of health clinics in the Territory.

91. It was reported in January 1991 that over 500 medical doctors and specialists from four continents would visit the Territory to attend three major conferences: the Thirteenth Medical Conference (4-8 February); the Fifth Workshop in Plastic Surgery (28 January-1 February); and the Second International Course in Endocrine Surgery (22-26 April). The conferences are sponsored jointly by the Government of the British Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands Medical and Dental Association and the United States-based Butterworth Hospital.

92. During the period under review, health care personnel received training through courses conducted both inside and outside the Territory.

C. Crime prevention and drugs

93. As reported above (see para. 38), the crime rate in the Territory increased by 73 per cent over the past five years. To cope with the situation, the police force had to increase its manpower from 89 to 112 in June 1990. Furthermore, the Commissioner of Police called on the public for greater cooperation with the police in the fight against rising crime. He noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of arrests for drug dealing, which indicated that the drug problem in the Territory no longer consisted solely of transshipment. 35/ Juvenile delinquency was also reported to be on the rise.

94. In a statement to the World Ministerial Drug Summit held in London in early April 1990, the Chief Minister disclosed that between 1988 and 1989 more drugs had been seized in the Territory than in the United Kingdom. He noted that the Caribbean was a major drug trafficking route between South America, the United States and Europe and that the Territory, with its large number of uninhabited islands and cays, was particularly vulnerable. He welcomed the assistance in equipment and personnel provided by the United Kingdom to its dependent Caribbean Territories and also welcomed the level of cooperation between the Territory and the United States, including the arrangements under the terms of a "ship rider" memorandum, whereby United States vessels could enter the Territory's waters under certain conditions to assist the Territory in drug interdiction. The Chief Minister also outlined measures taken by the Government to prevent money laundering and commercial fraud and to strengthen the power of local law enforcement authorities to trace, freeze and confiscate the assets of drug dealers.

95. In September 1990, representatives of the Territory's drug advisory groups attended a two-day conference on drug abuse in dependent Territories,

held in the Cayman Islands. The conference was held as a follow-up to the Drug Summit held in London (see para. 94). Participants were expected to share information on the steps necessary to reduce the demand for drugs and drug trafficking. In a related development, officials from the Barbados-based office of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control visited the Territory in October 1990 and March 1991 to discuss a pilot project under consideration for the British Virgin Islands. 36/

96. Several large quantities of cocaine and marijuana were seized in the Territory in 1990. The largest single quantity, 614 kilograms, with an estimated street value of $60 million, was seized in November 1990 on Ginger Island by an international drug task force, which included members of the Territory's drug squad and customs officers. Two men were arrested in connection with the offence. In December 1990, the High Court handed down sentences totalling 75 years on six men who had been arrested in the Territory's waters while waiting to collect a cargo of drugs. Evidence revealed that the men were part of a ring which had collected over $300 million from drug proceeds in the past six years.

D. Human rights

97. On 20 June 1990, the Chief Minister presented the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to the Territory's Legislative Council for adoption. Both Covenants had been ratified by the United Kingdom and extended to its dependent Territories in 1976. They were not part of local law and would only become so when adopted by the Territory's Legislature.

V. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

98. Education in the Territory is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 14 years. Major developments concerning education during the period under review are outlined below.

99. The Chief Minister informed the Legislative Council in February 1990 that $6.9 million, or 18.24 per cent of the recurrent budget for 1990, had been allocated for education and training at all levels and that a further $1 million under the capital budget had been earmarked for educational facilities, including the British Virgin Islands Community College. He noted that such allocations reflected the pivotal role the Government placed on the education of its people to better prepare them to meet the challenges of the future.

100. The President of the British Virgin Islands Community College announced in May 1990 that he was pleased with the steady growth of the college's enrollment, which had risen from 166 for the first semester to 199 for the second. He noted that most students were following courses related to their employment, but he expected them to eventually broaden their educational

goals. In December 1990, the Legislative Council adopted the British Virgin Islands Community College Act 1990, which made provisions for the regulation of the affairs of the College.

101. In September 1990, Mr. Gerald Lalor, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), visited the Territory to hold discussions with government and education officials on the establishment of distance learning, or extramural facilities of the University in the Territory. The programme, which would offer first-year university courses and certificates in public administration, was expected to begin in early 1991. Mr. Lalor's visit was a follow-up to the earlier visit by Mr. Alister McIntyre, Chancellor of UWI. The Principal of the British Virgin Islands Community College attended a conference on higher education at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, in early 1990. The main focus of the conference, which was attended by representatives of 52 tertiary institutions, was to promote greater cooperation between UWI and all higher education institutions in the Caribbean. 37/

102. According to information provided by the United Kingdom in 18 March 1991, 11 students from the British Virgin Islands received educational assistance in the United Kingdom during 1989, under schemes funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Overseas Development Administration.

Notes

1/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports, including the Caribbean Development Bank Annual Report (1989), and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General on 2 April 1990 by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

2/ The Island Sun (Tortola), 24 November 1990.

3/ The Beacon (Tortola), 2 August 1990.

4/ The Island Sun (Tortola), 15 September 1990.

5/ The Beacon (Tortola), 18 October 1990 and 15 November 1990; and The Island Sun (Tortola), 22 December 1990.

6/ The Island Sun (Tortola), 5 May 1990.

7/ Ibid., 15 December 1990.

8/ The Beacon (Tortola), 14 March 1991.

9/ A/C.4/45/SR.12, paras. 26-30.

10/ A/45/846.

Notes (continued)

11/ Department of Information and Public Relations, News Release No. 303R/90, 12 December 1990.

12/ Island Sun (Tortola), 8 December 1990.

13/ Ibid., 7 July 1990.

14/ Ibid., 14 July 1990.

15/ Department of Information and Public Relations, News Release No. 274R/90, 25 October 1990.

16/ The Beacon (Tortola), 5 April 1990.

17/ The Island Sun Tortola, 20 October 1990.

18/ Ibid., 22 December 1990.

19/ Department of Information and Public Relations, News Release No. 312R/90.

20/ The local currency is the United States dollar ($US).

21/ The Daily News (St. Thomas), 18 September 1990.

22/ The Beacon (Tortola), 10 January 1991.

23/ Ibid., 26 April 1990.

24/ Ibid., 14 June 1990.

25/ Department of Information and Public Relations, News Release No. 287R/90, 21 November 1990.

26/ Development Bank of the Virgin Islands: Thirteenth Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements.

27/ Department of Information and Public Relations, News Release No. 283R/90.

28/ The Daily News (St. Thomas), 3 January 1991.

29/ The Island Sun (Tortola), 12 and 19 May 1990.

30/ Ibid., 22 September 1990.

31/ The Beacon (Tortola), 6 October 1990.

Notes (continued)

32/ Ibid., 7 and 8 June 1990; and The Island Sun, 16 June 1990.

33/ The Island Sun, 12 April 1990; and The Beacon, 14 June 1990.

34/ Information contained in this section has been received from the offices of the United Nations Development Programme in Barbados and Jamaica.

35/ Ibid., 4, 8 and 16 August 1990.

36/ Department of Information and Public Relations, News Release No. 48R/91, 27 February 1991.

37/ Ibid., No. 018R/90 and No. 248R/90.